

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An article, comprising:

a beverage container having an opening through which a beverage in the container can be dispensed from the container; and

a threaded cap adapted to be removably secured to said container to cover said opening,

wherein a material comprising said cap comprises at least one thermochromic material in admixture with at least one thermoplastic polymer resin, said thermochromic material selected such that the cap has a visually altered appearance when the cap temperature changes within a temperature range of -25 to 40 85 C,

and wherein said cap further comprises at least one non-thermochromic printing ink layer on at least a portion of an outer surface thereof.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said temperature range is -10 to 40 C.

Claim 3 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said temperature range is 0 to 25 C.

Claim 4 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said temperature range is 5 to 20 C.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material comprising said cap further comprises at least one thermoplastic polymer resin is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, copolymers of polypropylene and polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 6, wherein said polyethylene is selected from the group consisting of linear, high density, low density polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

Claim 8 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said visibly altered appearance comprises a change in a color of said cap.

Claim 9 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cap is a one-piece cap.

Claim 10 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cap comprises more than one piece.

Claim 11 (Original) The article as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a beverage, and wherein said beverage is carbonated or non-carbonated.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cap provides a hermetic seal on said container.

Claim 13 (Original) A method for making the article as claimed in claim 1, comprising contacting said cap with said container.

Claim 14 (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising, prior to said contacting, filling said container with said beverage.

Claims 15-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the admixed thermochromic material is present in the cap in an amount of 1-50% by weight, based on the weight of the cap.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer resin of the cap further comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet absorber, antioxidant, dye, pigment, optical brightener, metal soap, surfactant, water repellent, filler, nucleation agent, antistatic agent, foaming agent, slip agent, and combinations thereof.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) An article, comprising:  
a beverage container having an opening through which a beverage in the container can be dispensed from the container; and  
a threaded cap having a liner, said cap being adapted to be removably secured to said container to cover said opening,  
wherein a material comprising said cap comprises at least one thermochromic material in admixture with at least one thermoplastic polymer resin, said thermochromic

material selected such that the cap has a visually altered appearance when the cap temperature changes within a temperature range of -25 to 50 85°C,  
and wherein said cap further comprises at least one non-thermochromic printing ink layer on at least a portion of an outer surface thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) An article, comprising:  
a beverage container having an opening through which a beverage in the container can be dispensed from the container; and  
a threaded cap adapted to be removably secured to said container to cover said opening,  
wherein a material comprising said cap comprises at least one thermochromic material in admixture with at least one thermoplastic polymer resin, said thermochromic material selected such that the cap has a visually altered appearance when the cap temperature changes within a temperature range of -25 to 50 85°C,  
wherein said cap further comprises at least one non-thermochromic printing ink layer on at least a portion of an outer surface thereof, and said non-thermochromic printing ink is visible at a first temperature of said cap and is invisible at a second temperature of said cap.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The article of claim 22, wherein the visible non-thermochromic printing ink has a different color than a color of the cap.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The article of claim 22, wherein at said first temperature, one or more conventional cap colors are visible and the thermochromic ink is either transparent or visible as a first color, and, at said second temperature, said

Application No. 10/038,679  
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2004

thermochromic printing ink is no longer transparent or is visible as a second color different from its first color.

**Claim 25 (Previously Presented)** The article of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic ink is transparent at said first temperature and is visible at said second temperature.